

THE LEAD ORE QUESTION.

Mr. Blaine and Mr. Windom Each
Have Totally Different Views
On The Matter

The Secretary of State Wants the
Lead Ores Admitted For
Commercial Reasons.

As Windom is Blaine's Man, the Prob-
abilities Are the Mexican Miners
Will Win the Day.

We have again presented to the country the spectacle of one member of President Harrison's cabinet running afoul of some of the cherished projects of another member and getting a lecture for it, says a Washington dispatch to the New York Post. The people of the southwestern border were convinced that Secretary Windom had issued his celebrated silver-lead-ore circular of July 17 for political effect alone, in the hope of influencing the election in the new northwest, where the opposition to the introduction of Mexican flux ores was naturally most bitter. They accordingly laid hold of Minister Ryan, when the latter was on his way to this city to see the Pan-American congress started, and spread before him their side of the controversy in full. He was especially impressed with the sudden and immense decline which had taken place in the commerce between the two countries, not through any retaliatory measures on the part of the Mexican government, but because the shippers of Mexican ores, being unwilling to submit their product to the arbitrary rulings of the United States treasury department, had withdrawn their traffic from the railroads, and the latter could not afford to run empty cars one way without charging extraordinary freight rates for whatever they brought back. This had put almost a prohibitory ban on commercial intercourse between the two countries.

Mr. Ryan digested well all that he saw or heard. The visit north, which had been only diplomatic and social in its first intent took on a deeper significance. When he asserted, therefore, in answer to inquiries in Washington, that his journey had not been undertaken for the purpose of drawing Secretary Windom's attention to the other side of the ore question, he was technically straightforward, but in the broader sense he was guilty of a bit of diplomatic duplicity. He had not come to Washington for any kind of a negotiation with Secretary Windom, but on his way here he had resolved to see to it that the sufferers on the border had a fair hearing. He found the secretary of state a ready listener. Here was Mr. Blaine, beginning to witness the fruition of his long-cherished plan for a congress of all the Americas, in order to promote closer trade relations and starting him in the face was the treasury circular of July 17, threatening his scheme with ruin in the case of the most important of all the states represented in the congress. The Mexican envoys were talking over their salads and champagne, about the charms of an enlarged intercourse, while his colleague, in the second cabinet chair, was doing his best to make such a blessing impossible. It was an absurd and embarrassing situation, and Mr. Blaine resolved to put in his protest. He accordingly caused Mr. Ryan to put the substance of what had passed between them into writing, and enclosed this manuscript in a letter of introduction to Mr. Windom, setting forth in the strongest terms the ruinous folly of the new treasury policy.

Mr. Windom answered the letter with the utmost courtesy, as is his habit, and elaborated his reasons for taking the course he had. The special agents who were sent to the Mexican border last summer to nose about and see how the customs levies on ores were made, had reported to him a startling condition of things, in which the chief element was the systematic practice of fraud by certain shippers, whose ores were artificially "doctored" so as to show just enough silver to make it easy to carry them through on the free list. This discovery, and not political considerations, Mr. Windom maintains, was what caused him to order a change of methods at Corpus Christi, Eagle Pass and El Paso.

The Blaine-Windom correspondence, which has not yet been given to the public, and may never be, leaves the whole matter about where it was. It is not likely that Mr. Blaine will recede from his position that the treasury policy is working irreparable harm to the relations between the United States and their sister republic, and that it threatens to undo much that he had hoped to accomplish by his Pan-American congress. On the other hand, for Mr. Windom to take a back track now would be to acknowledge himself in the wrong and to invite criticism for having run, through indiscreet haste, into a diplomatic complication with possible consequences of the most far-reaching and perilous character.

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CONDENSED RAILWAY TIME TABLE

Montana Central.

DEPART.

St. Paul, Atlantic ex., St. Paul and east. 11:35 a. m.
Helena and Butte ex., Butte and south. 4:00 p. m.
Helena and Butte ex., Butte and south. 8:15 a. m.
Marysville ex., Helena and Butte. 7:30 a. m.
Marysville ex., Helena and Butte. 10:00 a. m.

ARRIVE.

St. Paul, Atlantic ex., Butte and south. 11:35 a. m.
Montana, Pacific ex., St. Paul and east. 3:45 p. m.
Helena and Butte ex., Butte and south. 6:30 p. m.
Marysville ex., Helena and Butte. 10:00 a. m.
Marysville ex., Helena and Butte. 12:30 p. m.

Northern Pacific.

ARRIVE.

Through westbound. 2:50 p. m.
Through eastbound. 7:20 p. m.
Butte, Missoula and Helena ex. 12:30 p. m.
Marysville passenger. 8:40 a. m.
Rimmi account, Mon., Wed. and Fri. 5:00 p. m.
Wickes and Boulder passenger. 10:05 a. m.
Marysville accommodation. 10:00 a. m.

DEPART.

Through westbound. 3:15 p. m.
Through eastbound. 7:45 a. m.
Helena, Missoula and Butte ex. 3:30 p. m.
Rimmi account, Mon., Wed. and Fri. 5:00 p. m.
Wickes and Boulder passenger. 4:00 p. m.
Marysville accommodation. 10:00 a. m.

Union Pacific.

DEPART.

For all points east, south and west, via Montana Central and Butte. 4:00 p. m.
Via Northern Pacific and Garrison. 3:15 p. m.

ARRIVE.

From all points east, south and west, via Butte and Montana Central. 11:25 a. m.
Via Garrison and Northern Pacific. 12:20 p. m.

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